

**ADDED PAGE FOR SPECIAL COMMENTS FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL**

This divisional application claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of U.S. application No. 09/226,711, filed January 7, 1999, which is a continuation of my design application No. 29/074,619, which is a divisional of application No. 29/055,624, now U.S. patent No. Des. 386,557.

FISHING ROD HOLDER

Cross-Reference to Related Application:

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January 7, 1999, which was a continuation of my design  
application No. 29/074,619, which was a divisional of  
application No. 29/055,624, now United States Patent No.  
Des.386,557.

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Background of the Invention:

Field of the Invention:

The invention relates to a fishing rod holder. More  
specifically, the invention pertains to an adapter which holds  
15 a fly rod in a flush mount fishing rod holder.

Fishing boats are typically provided with an array of fishing  
rod holders in which various rods are held at ready during  
fishing trips. The rod holders typically include rod holder  
20 racks and batteries mounted on the cockpit walls, on so-called  
rocket launchers, and on radar mounts, and flush mounted  
holders -- also referred to as flush mounts. The flush mounts  
are inserts with an open face plate attached flat on a wall of  
the boat and a pipe section projecting from the face plate and  
25 into the interior of the boat wall.

Fishing rods are held in such rod holders by inserting the rod handle up to the reel, i.e. up to the clamp which attaches the reel to the rod handle. Rods with longer handles and trolling rods are inserted all the way into the pipe section until the  
5 butt of the handle impinges on a pin at the end of the pipe section. The insertion depth is typically in the order of 6 to 12 inches.

Fly rods for fly fishing are different from spinning rods in  
10 that fly fishing reels are attached very close to the fly rod butt. Fly rods can therefore not be inserted into such handle-insertion type mounts to an extent that would suffice to hold the rod vertically or slightly inclined.

15 Summary of the Invention:

It is accordingly an object of the invention to provide a fishing rod holder, which overcomes the above-mentioned disadvantages of the heretofore-known devices and methods of this general type and which allows fly rods to be held in  
20 conventional fishing rod holders such as flush mounts and rod batteries.

With the foregoing and other objects in view there is provided, in accordance with the invention, a fly fishing rod  
25 holder for holding a fly fishing rod having a handle and a bracket attaching a fly reel at the handle, the fly fishing

rod holder including a first pipe section having an insertion opening, a connection area opposite the insertion opening, a longitudinal axis, and an inner diameter accommodating therein the fly fishing rod handle through the insertion opening and  
5 into the first pipe section along an insertion direction, a second pipe section connected at the connection area of the first pipe section and projecting away from the first pipe section along the longitudinal axis of the first pipe section, and the first pipe section having a slot beginning at the  
10 insertion opening and extending in the insertion direction along the first pipe section.

In accordance with another feature of the invention, the first and second pipe sections are two separate pieces removably  
15 connected to one another.

In accordance with a further feature of the invention, the second pipe section has an outer pipe section and an inner pipe section connected to one another.

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In accordance with an additional feature of the invention, the outer pipe section and the inner pipe section are connected to one another with adhesive.

25 In accordance with yet a further feature of the invention, the first and second pipe sections are integrally formed in one

piece. Alternatively, the first and second pipe sections are glued to one another.

In accordance with yet an added feature of the invention, the  
5 slot is substantially rectangular and widens adjacent the insertion opening.

In accordance with yet an additional feature of the invention, the slot is an L-shaped slot having a longitudinal component  
10 extending longitudinally from the insertion opening and a transverse component extending transversely away from the longitudinal component in a circumferential direction.

In accordance with again another feature of the invention, the  
15 second pipe section has an outer diameter enabling an insertion thereof into a flush mount fishing rod holder.

In accordance with again a further feature of the invention, the second pipe section has a plurality of notches formed  
20 therein for engaging into an alignment pin in the flush mount fishing rod holder.

In accordance with a concomitant feature of the invention, the slot has a width adapted to a width of a bracket attaching the  
25 fly reel to the fly fishing rod so as to enable an insertion of the bracket beyond the insertion opening and to a given

insertion depth into the first pipe section for removably securing the fly fishing rod within the fly fishing rod holder.

- 5 Other features which are considered as characteristic for the invention are set forth in the appended claims.

Although the invention is illustrated and described herein as embodied in a fishing rod holder, it is nevertheless not  
10 intended to be limited to the details shown, since various modifications and structural changes may be made therein without departing from the spirit of the invention and within the scope and range of equivalents of the claims.

- 15 The construction of the invention, however, together with additional objects and advantages thereof will be best understood from the following description of the specific embodiment when read in connection with the accompanying drawings.

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Brief Description of the Drawing:

Fig. 1 is an elevational view of a prior art fly rod and reel combination;

- 25 Fig. 2 is a front elevational view of the novel fishing rod holder;

Fig. 3 is a rear elevational view thereof;

Fig. 4 is a left side elevational view thereof;

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Fig. 5 is a right side elevational view thereof;

Fig. 6 is a top-plan view of the holder;

Fig. 7 is a bottom-plan view thereof; and

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Fig. 8 is a partial side elevation of the rod holder according to the invention inserted into a flush mount.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments:

Referring now to the figures of the drawing in detail and first, particularly, to the prior art Fig. 1 thereof, there is seen a fly rod 1 with a cork handle 2. A reel 4 is attached  
5 between the handle 2 and a butt 3. The attachment of the reel 4 is by way of a conventional bracket 5 which is wedge-clamped between two bracket clamps 6 and 7. The bracket clamp 7 is biased towards the front of the rod with a nut 8 which meshes on a thread 9.

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A maximum insertion depth D with regard to a prior art rod holder is defined from a rear of the bracket 5 to the butt 3. In other words, the fly rod can only be inserted into the rod holder up to the bracket 5. The insertion depth D is not  
15 sufficient to securely hold the fly rod in the rod holder, specifically in an inclined holder (usually inclined by about 30° from the vertical).

The problem is alleviated with the rod holder according to the  
20 invention. With reference to Figs. 2-5, the novel rod holder 10, which may also be referred to as a rod holder adapter, is formed with a slot 11 at its insertion end that allows the bracket 5 to pass into a pipe section 12 that acts as the holder pipe for the rod. The pipe section 12 -- in its  
25 function -- corresponds to the pipe section that is attached to the face plate of a flush mount and that projects into the



interior of the boat. In terms of a rocket-launcher type rod holder, the pipe section 12 corresponds to the main body of the holder.

5 The pipe section 12 of the novel rod holder 10 is rigidly attached to (or integrally formed with) a second pipe section 13, also referred to as an extender pipe 13. The extender pipe 13 is adapted to be inserted into the conventional rod holder. In that regard, the extender pipe 13 has an outer  
10 diameter OD that corresponds substantially to the outer diameter of a regular spinner rod handle or a trolling rod that can be inserted into a flush mount rod holder. The extender pipe 13 is formed with four alignment notches or slots 14 into which a pin 15 at the bottom of the flush mount  
15 rod holder can engage. The notches 14 allow an angular alignment of the rod holder 10 in the flush mount.

The slot 11 may be in the shape of an "L", with a longitudinal slot component and a transverse component 11a. The transverse  
20 slot component 11a allows the rod 1 (i.e., the bracket 5) to be locked in the rod holder 10.

With reference to Figs. 6 and 7, the inner diameter ID of the pipe section 12 corresponds to the outer diameter OD of the  
25 extender pipe 13. This allows efficient manufacture and assembly of the two pipe sections 12 and 13, in particular

when the rod holder 10 is formed of PVC. The two pipe sections 12 and 13 may thereby be glued together with so-called PVC cement. In the alternative, the rod holder 10 may also be integrally formed in one molded piece.

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With reference to Fig. 4, a spacing from the end of the slot 11 to an insertion line 16 should be at least as great as the (maximum insertion) depth D of the fly rod 1. The insertion line 16 indicates the upper end of the extender pipe 13 after  
10 insertion into the pipe 12.

With reference to Fig. 8, the rod holder 10 is inserted into flush mount 17. The flush mount 17 includes a mounting plate 18 and an insertion pipe 19 that is attached to the mounting  
15 plate 18 at a given angle. The mounting plate 18 is attached to a flat board 20 of a boat wall and the pipe section 19 projects into the interior of the wall. Such flush mounts may also be provided on vertical walls.